

Serial No. 09/667,706
Docket No. NEC00P267-hk

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REMARKS

Claims 5-9 and 23 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 12-22 have been canceled. Claim 23 has been added to claim additional features of the claimed invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 5-9 are allowed. Applicant notes that claims 12-22 have been canceled. In addition, Applicant notes that newly added claim 23 recites features indicated by the Examiner as allowable subject matter on page 6 of the Office Action. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-9 and 23, all of the claims presently pending in the Application, are in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 5-9 and 23, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 6/17/04

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment was filed by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Examiner Douglas Owens, Group Art Unit # 2811 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 17th day of June, 2003.



Phillip E. Miller
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